

DISC Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1

January 2005



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DISC NEWSLETTER

Produced and Edited by:
Doug Quinn/BAS

Sponsored by:
DISC

Contributors This Month:
Marsha Rogers
Beth Zlotky

Comments & Articles should be directed to:

Doug Quinn,
e-mail:
douglas.quinn@da.state.ks.us

An Information Periodical For DISC Employees

Ideas

Please send us any ideas for articles, or other suggestions, for the DISC Newsletter.

Historical Site Timeline by Marsha Rogers

Summer, 2000

During this period, conversations between Historical and DISC began. The BIS management team had been meeting with vendors exploring new DASD storage capabilities and was particularly interested in disk mirroring. Thoughts turned to finding a suitable secondary site. DISC already had an agreement with KSHS to store disaster recovery tapes and it just so happened that KSHS was in the midst of building a new bay at their location. Subsequent conversations between the two agencies led to the conclusion that there would never be a better time to tailor some of the new space for the DISC remote data center.

engineers, along with DISC staff and KSHS staff participated in the design, review, and construction meeting. A two year plan was developed and outlined. During the construction phase DISC attended numerous project update meetings, along with all other parties involved in the project. At one of the meetings the engineers determined the west wall needed to be relocated which resulted in our space being cut down by approximately 200 square feet. We also discovered at a later meeting that the architects had given the okay for a cinderblock wall to be constructed for the south wall. This cinderblock wall was quite a bit more expensive than the wall that was originally proposed. Bruce Roberts dubbed this wall the "Joe Hennes Wall".

October 27, 2000

This is the date that marks the official beginning of the transformation project at the Kansas History Center. DISC began meeting with KSHS staff, architects and engineers to discuss DISC's requirements for space in the new third bay at KSHS. At this time they offered DISC an opportunity to participate in this project and secure approximately 1500 square feet for our use. Drawings and specifications were distributed to everyone involved in this project. In this document, basic construction specifications including switches, fuses, lighting panel boards, transformers, pipes and fittings, heating and cooling units, as well as insulation were included.

September 17, 2001

After several meetings wherein financial arrangements were discussed, a three year interagency contract between DISC and KSHS was signed. The basic use of the space included housing of data tapes and other offsite storage.

September 6, 2002

DISC purchased raised flooring for the DR space. A bid was let for installation of the flooring. Kansas Building Systems was awarded the bid and the raised floor was installed. This flooring was installed with the intention of using the space as a cold Disaster Recovery site. The intent was to utilize a drop ship contract for the hardware and use KSHS building power. In the event of power outage at KSHS, a motor generator would be utilized to power the equipment. In addition portable cooling equipment would be brought in if needed.

November 3, 2000

DISC agreed to participate in this project with KSHS. Mechanical and electrical

Historical Site continued

We also had Simplex install a card reader of the door.

December 2002

Due to growing interest by the Bureau of Telecommunications and other state agencies, DISC determined that it would be in the best interest of all involved to install our own 200 AMP service. A bid was written, with the assistance of Division of Facilities Management electrical engineers, and subsequently awarded to OK Johnson Contractors. The 200 AMP service was installed with a manual cut off switch for a motor generator should we loose power to this site. The intent was to rent a motor generator of adequate size to support the power requirements of the hardware.

May 10, 2004

The decision was made to move half the redundant KANWIN network components from LSOB to KSHS. That, coupled with the decision concerning SHARP disaster recovery plans, made it apparent this site needed to become a fully operational Data Center. This meant we needed to purchase and install environment equipment identical to what we have at LSOB. We began to talk with vendors about UPS, PDU, motor generators and air handling units. We had good luck dealing with Systek, out of Shawnee, Ks, to obtain new or slightly used equipment that was coming out of the numerous bankrupt dot coms around the country. All of the new airs handling units purchased for LSOB were obtained thru them. We met with Systek and they began the search for environmental equipment for KSHS.

June 15, 2004

Systek located the environmental equipment that was needed at the site. The equipment purchased included single module system UPS, 125 KW emergency generator, PDU panel (42 circuit), remote generator monitor panel and 2 network air FM-DX 208 AHUs.

July 1, 2004

With the purchase of the environmental equipment completed, we proceeded to work on a bid for installation of the equipment. We hired an engineer, contracted thru DFM, to write the installation specifications to insure that all building laws and codes were met. The bid was awarded to Heartland Electric the end of July.

August - October, 2004

Heartland proceeded with the installation of the environmental equipment. Included in the bid was the electrical work that was required to put the KANWIN equipment and SHARP hardware on the PDU and UPS. We had staff at the site during the duration of the install to insure everything went smoothly. Progress meetings were held throughout the installation with Heartland, DISC, KSHS staff and the engineer. Heartland completed there work in early October. The engineer conducted one final walk thru to insure full compliance with the contract documents. The vendors associated with all the environmental equipment were contacted to do the initial start up and maintenance training on the equipment. All of these activities proved to be successful. The DR site is now commissioned a full fledged Data Center.

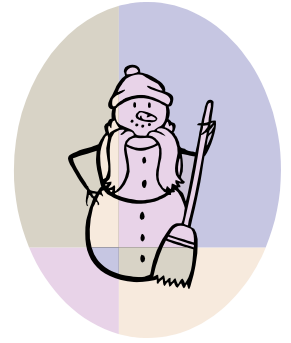
I would like to thank Kevin Tralle, John Lowrey, Dion Davis and Dallas Brown for their dedication in seeing this project through to a successful completion. While at times this was a very stressful project, it was also an incredible learning opportunity for all of us. One thing I learned is that it is much easier to be a Data Center Manager over an existing site than it is to manage the planning and building of a Data Center. By the way Joe, I never did get my General Contractor hardhat.





EMPLOYEE INFO

*Happy Decembeer
Birthdays to:*



Mike Rodecap

Tom Heikes

Charlotte Thompson

Linda Schramek

Janel Johnson

Mary Grace

Carey Brown

Dan Swearingen

Jean Pierce

Jenny Hahn

Gretchen Hefner

Rene Arce

Deaths

Don Blocker's Brother

***We are so sorry for your
loss Don***



Swimming Sensation

Terry and Susan Howarter know every pool around. For the past nine years they have assumed roles of chauffer, spectator, swim meet volunteer, fundraiser, and most importantly, proud parent of their daughter Katey: swimmer extraordinaire! Katey, a senior at Hayden High School, has been swimming competitively since she was nine, and has earned a reputation as one of the top swimmers in Topeka.

As a freshman, Katey wasted no time in establishing herself as a force in the aquatic community by winning both the 50 and 100 meter freestyle events at her first All-City meet, beating other competitors of all ages, including seniors. She repeated her double wins as a junior, won the 50 free and took second in the 100 free as a sophomore, and has made both the All-City and the All-Centennial League teams for three years running.

But Katey hasn't stopped there. She qualified in individual events for State competition all three years, including her freshman year, in addition to anchoring qualifying relay teams from Hayden all three years. In her most recent year, as a junior, she qualified for 6 of 8 individual events for State competition: quite a feat for any swimmer. Her sophomore year she placed 7th in the State in the 100 Backstroke, and in her junior year placed 6th in the 50 Free, and 10th in the 100 Free.

This kind of success doesn't come easily: just ask her parents about 5:00 a.m. workout schedules! Hundreds of hours of swimming, weight lifting, and running, an ongoing involvement with the Topeka Swim Association, and the huge support of Terry and Susan all play a part in Katey's success; and it's paid off. She recently signed a National Letter of Intent to swim for the University of Nebraska-Omaha, and also was granted a swimming scholarship there.

Susan reflects, "This is a very exciting time in her life. Something that she has been focusing on for the past three years is finally coming to an end. Terry and I are ready to send her off to experience something new, but sad to see this final high school season come around." The Howarters look forward to a lot more traveling...and getting to know a whole new set of pools.



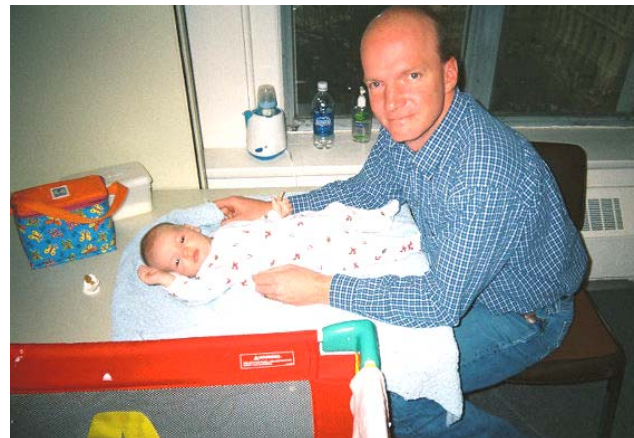
Unix Group Increases Head Count

DISC's Technical Support staff has been enjoying a new temp, of sorts, for the past few months. Jeff Muller has been kind enough to share his office with the newbie...his new son, that is! Jake William Muller was born in September to Jeff and Amy Muller, their third child and little brother to sister Megan (8) and brother Garrett (5). Jeff and Amy decided to make use of the Department of Administration's Infant at Work Program, a program through which an employee who has a newborn may keep their infant in their own care at work until age 6 months.

Jake has become a regular in the tech support and operations areas. Bill Berns, Connie Stroud and Susan Howarter all have a hand in caring for Jake, each taking shifts when needed to give Dad time to attend meetings, etc. Jake has had "hands on" technical experience in a variety of activities already: entering keyboard commands, watching the master console, and even helping to insert tapes in tape drives! His favorite activities, though, seem to be eating, sleeping, and giving his Dad an opportunity to change his diapers. He's been a happy baby, and seems to be very popular with the ladies!

Who needs Sesame Street? Dad has been providing regular reading materials to Jake in his playpen, propping up books, etc. for his reading pleasure (?). Books like "UNIX in a Nutshell" will be sure to give Jake an early start to developing his tech-savvy mind. "Aunt" Connie takes Jake in the early afternoon, even though we're not sure that Father Muller approves of her red and blue décor. She says she enjoys having Jake, and wishes that the Infant at Work program had been available when her children were born. Bill Berns, an experienced grandpa with seven grandchildren, loves Jake's smile and says you couldn't ask for a more pleasant temperament in a baby. When Jeff has Jake in tow in the hallways, he's often stopped by admiring employees, giving him lots of opportunities to bone up on his doting skills.

Jeff and his wife are both very grateful for this chance to keep their new son close-at-hand for these first few months of life. Having Jake here has been not only a time of closeness for Jeff and Jake, but the financial savings in terms of childcare costs are significant. Coworkers agree that the Infant at Work program is a wonderful way for the Department to help support its family of employees. Jeff says that he and Amy aren't sure just yet of their plans for Jake when he turns 6 months, but we all know this: he will be greatly missed.



Division of Information
Systems and
Communications (DISC)

Phone: 785-296-4886
Fax: 785-296-1168
Email: douglas.quinn@da.state.ks.us

Meeting Our Customer's Needs

KUDOs

BOCS

To: CSC Staff

I don't know what you did with the new installation last weekend but my junk email has gone from 100 a day to virtually nothing. What a nice surprise not to have to deal with that the first thing every morning. Thanks for doing a great job and for your continued good support.

From: Gordon Lansford

BOT

To: Dan Czajkowski

Dan was very helpful during the moving of our Central Research staff. He had to work while contractors, movers, and research staff were climbing over each other. He was very professional and extremely helpful. He went above and beyond the call of duty

From: Stacey Woolington, KS Courts

Way To Go Everyone !!

Valentine Day Reminder

Remember to bring any Bud vases to the DISC front desk. This will help with the flower sale for Project Topeka. We appreciate your help and your participation in all the events. Be sure to check the D of A Project Topeka Calendar in the public folders section in Outlook for a list of all the lunches and sales for Project Topeka
Thanks!



Project Topeka

Other DISC Project Topeka events, scheduled so far, include:

BIS 2/4—Biscuits and Gravy

BOT 2/11—Chili Feed

BAS 2/14—Flower Sale

DISC—Penny Race, men against women

